Endangered Species

Meaning

An endangered species is a species that is very likely to become extinct in the near future, either worldwide or in a particular political jurisdiction. Endangered species may be at risk due to factors such as habitat loss, poaching and invasive species. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List lists the global conservation status of many species, and various other agencies assess the status of species within particular areas. Many nations have laws that protect conservation-reliant species which, for example, forbid hunting, restrict land development, or create protected areas. Some endangered species are the target of extensive conservation efforts such as captive breeding and habitat restoration.

Why are they endangered?

Endangered species may be at risk due to factors such as habitat loss, poaching and invasive species. Many species in our world today are becoming endangered due to a loss of their primary habitat. Deforestation, agricultural spread, water extraction, mining and human migration have either destroyed the only habitats the species can survive in or driven the species to a severely fragmented habitat

How can we help to help the endangered species?

Educate your family about endangered species in your area. It’s not just about snow leopards in Russia, it’s about the ecosystem in your own backyard. Teach your friends and family about wildlife, birds, fish and plants that live near you. Just awareness of these species is a critical step. Scientists tell us the best way to protect endangered species is to protect the places where they live. Get involved by volunteering at your local nature center or wildlife refuge. Go wildlife or bird watching in nearby parks.

What are some examples of endangered species?

Some examples are tigers, rhinos, and blue whales. Project Tiger is a tiger conservation programme launched in April 1973 by the Government of India during Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's tenure. Kailash Sankhla was the first director of Project Tiger. As the Bengal Tiger is the national animal of India, this project aims to stem the dwindling population of the big cats and work to increase their numbers.

Some Non-Profit Organizations Dedicated to Protect Endangered Species…

1) Defenders of Wildlife

Defenders of Wildlife works tirelessly both on the ground and in the courts to protect and restore threatened wildlife. Their work primarily focuses on North America, although it does have a fantastic worldwide reach. Their conservation efforts extend to the polar bear, wolves, sea turtles, sharks, panthers and manatees. They work at a policy level to ensure that endangered animals are protected, but also offer practical advice to people who have to live alongside bears!

2) International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

The IUCN is the world's largest global network of government and civil society organisations. Its mission is to provide public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge to enable human progress and economic development, whilst also promoting wildlife conservation. Its firm belief is that these improvements cannot happen independently of each other.

The IUCN is made up of over 1200 member organisations working in 160 countries. The organisations work together to collect data on biodiversity. From this they have gleaned that 40% of the world's oxygen comes from rainforests, 50% of chemical medicines are based on nature and 100% of our food comes from nature – we need nature to sustain us. Using this knowledge, they train individuals, communities and businesses to exist in the most positive way for the environment, whilst also flourishing financially.

3) Jane Goodall Foundation

In 1960, Jane Goodall ventured into the forests of Africa to be able to see wild animals living without human disturbance. This decision led to the foundation of the Jane Goodall Foundation, and paved the way for some of the most illuminating research into chimpanzees that has ever been conducted. The research continues to this day, focusing on the state of the forest and the chimpanzee populations. This research is then shared with governments and other protection agencies to create policy to preserve animals.

4) David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust

The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust is one of the most successful orphaned elephant rescue and rehabilitation projects in the world. The organisation was founded in 1977 by Dr Dame Daphne Sheldrick in memory of her late husband, the famous naturalist David Sheldrick. The organisation focuses on anti-poaching and conservation, as well rescuing and hand rearing elephant and rhino orphans. To date, the foundation has successfully hand-raised over 150 baby elephants and has successfully reintegrated them to the wild.

5) World Wildlife Fund

Of all of our top 17 organisations that help endangered animals, the WWF is probably the best known. Its mission is to conserve nature and reduce the most pressing threats to biodiversity. The scope of their work is huge, covering oceans, forests, wildlife, fresh water, climate and food. They support some of the most endangered animals today – giant pandas, tigers, elephants, gorillas, sea turtles, polar bears, rhinos and whales.